

*Psammobia tellinella*, Lamarck. Dredged in Dalkey Sound.

*Tellina pygmæa*, Philippi. Same locality as the last.

*Cytherea Chione*. One valve : dredged in about 14 fathoms, Dalkey Sound.

*Circe minima*, Montagu. Two odd valves : same locality as the last.

*Astarte sulcata*, Da Costa. Same locality as the last.

*Cardium nodosum*, Turton. Same locality.

*C. fasciatum*, Montagu. Same locality.

*Lucina spinifera*, Montagu. Trawled off the Calf of Man.

*Leda caudata*, Donovan. Two live specimens with some odd valves dredged in 13 fathoms, Dalkey Sound.

*Lima Loscombi*, Sowerby. Dredged in a live state from 12 to 14 fathoms, Dalkey Sound.

*Lima hians*, Gmelin. A beautiful live specimen was dredged last month in Killiney Bay in about 15 fathoms.

*Anomia striata*?, Lovén. Dredged in Dalkey Sound.

*Chiton lævis*, Pennant. Same locality.

*Trochus exiguus*?, Pulteney. South Bull, Dublin Bay.

*T. granulatus*, Born. Trawled off the Calf of Man.

*T. Montagui*, Gray. Dredged in from 12 to 14 fathoms, Dalkey Sound.

*Fusus propinquus*, Alder. Trawled off the Skerries ; but I have obtained much better specimens last summer off the Saltees.

*Mangelia gracilis*, Montagu. Trawled off Skerries, in company with *M. turricula*, *Trophon clathratus* and *Nassa incrassata*.

Yours truly obliged,

WILLIAM WHITE WALPOLE.

*On the Sun Column as seen at Sandwick Manse, Orkney,  
in April 1852. By C. CLOUSTON.*

The perpendicular column of light which appeared repeatedly at sunset and sunrise during April, deserves a more particular account than the usual monthly report contains, as this is the most northern locality in which I have yet heard of its appearance.

When seen in the evening, it was generally immediately after the sun had sunk either below the horizon, or behind a bank of clouds there.

It was rather wider than the apparent diameter of the sun, and extended upwards for about  $15^{\circ}$ , widening a little towards the top, and becoming fainter, so that there was no defined boundary ; but it was sometimes much shorter, and could be distinctly seen, when it was less than the semidiameter of the sun above the horizon, either when vanishing by descending, as it generally did, or as it last appeared on the 3rd of May, without rising more than about  $1^{\circ}$ .

Though at first it seemed to be a law that it must descend as the sun descended below the horizon, yet on one occasion, at least (on the 26th), it vanished by ascending, or the base disappeared first.

It was generally remarkably perpendicular, but sometimes had a perceptible inclination to one side, and followed the course of the sun northwards.

It had periods of greater and less brightness, but for the most part was steady, something like a sunbeam among the clouds, and never had any approach to the rapid motion of the aurora.

Its colour was pale or whitish in its upper portion, or when it appeared contrasted with the dark sky; but in passing through the red, copper, or orange-coloured sky that prevailed lower down, it partook of its shade, and tinged the thin strata of cloud that lay across it with a brighter hue of their own colour. Fifty-five minutes was the longest period that it was visible any evening. I am told that it also appeared very bright some mornings before sunrise.

If the phenomenon was uncommon, so was the state of the atmosphere when it occurred. The drought was unprecedented; only about  $\frac{1}{10}$ th of an inch of rain falling in April, which is about  $\frac{1}{20}$ th of the average quantity in that month in previous years. The atmospheric pressure was great, the mercury never being lower than 30·07, nor higher than 30·32. The temperature was also high for the month, being 47°·64, or more than 4° above the average for April.

The atmosphere was very calm, and the sky near the horizon of that red or copper colour which generally indicates dry and warm weather, so that at last we could anticipate its appearance. I do not presume to explain the mode of its production, but these circumstances may assist others in so doing.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR MAY 1852.

*Chiswick.*—May 1. Overcast: cloudy: clear. 2. Cloudy and cold: frosty at night. 3. White clouds: fine: clear and frosty. 4. Dusky clouds: clear and frosty. 5. Densely clouded: clear and frosty at night. 6. Cloudy: clear. 7. Overcast: very fine. 8. Cloudy: fine. 9. Fine. 10. Fine: rain at night. 11. Boisterous, with heavy shower, partly hail. 12. Heavy rain: thunder. 13. Cloudy: overcast: boisterous at night. 14. Showery and boisterous: clear. 15, 16. Very fine. 17. Slight drizzle: overcast: thunder, lightning and rain at night. 18. Very fine: rain at night. 19. Very fine. 20. Hazy: fine: showers. 21. Overcast. 22. Cloudy: clear. 23. Cloudy. 24, 25. Overcast: fine. 26. Rain. 27. Overcast. 28. Densely clouded. 29. Rain. 30. Fine: cloudy. 31. Fine: cloudy: clear and cold.

Mean temperature of the month .....	51°·45
Mean temperature of May 1851 .....	51·16
Mean temperature of May for the last twenty-six years ...	54·07
Average amount of rain in May .....	1·74 inch.

*Boston.*—May 1. Cloudy. 2. Cloudy: rain A.M. 3, 4. Cloudy. 5. Cloudy: rain A.M. 6. Cloudy. 7. Fine. 8. Cloudy. 9, 10. Fine. 11. Cloudy. 12—14. Cloudy: rain A.M. 15, 16. Fine. 17. Cloudy. 18. Cloudy: rain A.M. and P.M. 19. Cloudy: rain A.M. 20. Fine. 21. Cloudy: rain A.M. and P.M. 22—25. Cloudy. 26. Cloudy: rain P.M. 27—29. Cloudy. 30. Fine. 31. Cloudy.

*Sandwich Manse, Orkney.*—May 1. Cloudy: fine. 2. Clear: fine. 3. Cloudy: fine: clear: fine. 4. Cloudy: fine. 5. Drops: fine: cloudy: fine. 6. Clear: fine: cloudy: fine. 7. Drops: rain: clear. 8. Drops: showers. 9. Rain: clear. 10. Drops: clear: aurora. 11. Cloudy: showers. 12. Bright: clear. 13. Rain: clear: fine. 14. Bright: showers. 15. Clear: cloudy. 16. Clear. 17. Clear: fine. 18, 19. Clear: fine: aurora. 20—23. Clear: fine. 24. Bright: fine: clear: fine. 25. Clear: fine. 26. Cloudy. 27. Cloudy: fine. 28. Bright: cloudy: showers. 29. Bright: showers: cloudy: hail-showers. 30. Sleet-showers. 31. Sleet-showers: showers.—This month has been fine, warm and dry.

Mean temperature of May for twenty-five years previous ...	47°·88
Mean temperature of this month .....	50·49
Average quantity of rain in May for six years .....	1·72 inch.